

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: M. A. Ali et al. : Group Art Unit:  
Serial No.: : Examiner:  
Filed: :  
For SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING  
ENGINEERING DESIGN :  
:

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

- 1 PTO-1449 Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)  
[within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action] N/C
- 2 Statement Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance] N/C
- 3 Fee Payment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance] \$240.00
- 4 Petition, Statement & Petition Fee Payment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(d)  
[before issue fee payment] \$130.00

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following are submitted in the above identified application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98:

- 5 A list of documents on form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document and a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document is enclosed herewith.

This paper is submitted in accordance with:

- 6 37 CFR 1.97(b): [within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action]
- 7 37 CFR 1.97(c): [before Final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier); and
- 8 The required Statement made in item 11 below; or
- 9 The \$240.00 fee specified in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized in item 14 below.

10 37 CFR §1.97(d): [before issue fee payment]; and

- a) This is a petition for consideration of the subject Information Disclosure Statement. The petition fee (\$130.00) required by 37 CFR §1.17(i) is authorized in item 14 below; and
- b) The required Statement is stated in item 11 below.

11 Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

12 Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

13 No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

14 Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees applicable to this application to Deposit Account No. 07-0868. An original and two (2) copies of this document are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

January 29, 2001

Date

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General Electric Company  
CRD Patent Docket Rm 4A59  
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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on |                    |
| <hr/> <i>Blanche M. du Moulin</i> <hr/> <i>Blanche M. du Moulin</i> <hr/>  |                    |
| Date of Deposit  | Type or Print Name |
| Signature  |                    |

|  |   |                               |            |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| FORM PTO-1449<br>(REV. 7-80)   | US. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>RD-27,384 | SERIAL NO. |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><u>LIST OF ITEMS</u> |   | Applicant                     |            |
|  |   | Mohamed A. Ali et al          |            |
|  |   | Filing Date                   | Group      |

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER |  | DATE     | NAME                | CLASS | SUBCLAS S | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|----------|---------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                   | A1 5,826,252    |  | 10/20/98 | Wolters, Jr., et al | 707   | 1         | Jun. 28, 1996              |
|                   | A2 6,134,594    |  | 10/17/00 | Helland, et al      | 709   | 229       | Oct. 28, 1997              |
| A3                |                 |  |          |                     |       |           |                            |
| A4                |                 |  |          |                     |       |           |                            |
| A5                |                 |  |          |                     |       |           |                            |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
|--|--|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|--------------------|
|  |  | B1              |      |         |       |          |                    |
|  |  | B2              |      |         |       |          |                    |

### OTHER INFORMATION (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
|  | C1 | Gerald J. Hahn , Necip Doganaksoy, Roger Hoerl, THE EVOLUTION OF SIX SIGMA, 11/01/99, pages 317-326 |
|  | C2 |   |
|  | C3 |   |
|  | C4 |   |
|  | C5 |   |
|  | C6 |   |
|  | C7 |   |
|  | C8 |   |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant